

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 30 to page 2, line 13 as follows:

At present, two VPLS standards have been proposed: (a) "Draft Kompella," available at the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) website, ~~http://www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-kompella-ppvpn-vpls-01.txt~~; and (b) "Draft Lasserre-Vkompella," also available at the IETF website ~~http://www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-lasserre-vkompella-ppvpn-vpls-0-2.txt~~. Under one proposal, each PE device provides Layer 2 connectivity service by serving as a bridge between its associated CE device or devices and an emulated LAN interface. The emulated LAN interface allows devices attached to different CE devices to communicate with each other using, for example, Ethernet media access control (MAC) addresses. In essence, PE devices 103-1 to 103-n and WAN 102 together form a hub device. Traffic between PE devices can be handled using, for example, point-to-point MPLS virtual circuit (VC) labeled switched paths (LSPs) (i.e., "pseudo-wires"). Such an LSP may be implemented as a virtual circuit within an MPLS tunnel LSP. This process is illustrated, for example, in FIG. 2, where customer packet 201 is encapsulated by an MPLS overhead 202 that includes an MPLS tunnel identifier 202a and virtual circuit identifier 202b.